

II. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Choptank Road project area is located in the Interior Swamps physiographic zone of Delaware's Upper Coastal Plain. According to the *Delaware Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan* (1989), this area is known as the Upper Peninsula Zone. The project area stretches across a gently rolling plain. Soils within the project APE are of the Matapeake-Sassafrass association (USDA and DAES 1970). Although soils in this association tend to be found in nearly level settings, these soils have also been noted in steeper, more upland areas. In general, soils of the Matapeake-Sassafrass association consist of assorted medium- to moderately-coarse, sandy to sandy clay loams. These soils are regarded as well-drained and well-suited for agriculture.

The Choptank Road project area is located in St. George's Hundred. St. Georges Hundred is situated in New Castle County, the northern most of Delaware's three counties. It is bounded by Red Lion Hundred to the north, the Delaware River to the east, Appoquinimink Hundred to the south, and the State of Maryland to the west.

In the recent past, southern New Castle County has experienced a significant amount of residential growth. Prior to that time the area was mainly rural, yielding a variety of crops such as corn, wheat, and peaches, with dairying also being an important component of agricultural life in the area.

Most of lands that flank Choptank Road consist of assorted agricultural properties that are under regular cultivation; however, several large, recently constructed housing developments are also present along the roadway. Although most of the project APE falls along the roadside edges of assorted farm fields and residential yards, interestingly, a few wetland environments can be found within the project APE. At the southern end of the project APE, a small intermittent stream associated with Sandy Branch crosses the project APE about 800 west of the Choptank Road/Bunker Hill Road intersection (**Figure 1**). North of the Choptank Road/Bunker Hill Intersection, a small intermittent stream associated with Great Bohemia Creek crosses Choptank Road roughly 1,500 feet south of the Bohemia Mill Road/Choptank Road intersection (**Figure 1**). At the north end of the project APE, Back Creek crosses Choptank Road roughly 2,500 feet north of the Churchtown Road/Choptank Road intersection (**Figure 1**).